



## Proclamation Honors League Centennial, Ratification of the 19th Amendment

League members from Columbia, Kansas City, Moberly, Sedalia and St. Louis gathered in the Capitol Rotunda on July 8 to celebrate the Centennial of the League and Missouri’s ratification of the 19th Amendment. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft presented a proclamation signed by Governor Mike Parson that was drafted by Marilyn McLeod. It concludes: *Whereas*, the State of Missouri recognizes that the League of Women Voters of Missouri, which arose from the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, has worked to educate and empower voters since its founding in October 1919, and *Whereas*, the citizens of Missouri appreciate the struggles of the Suffragists and others who fought for the right to vote by all citizens; *Now, therefore, I*, Michael L. Parson, Governor of the State of Missouri, do hereby recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Ashcroft commended the League for its tireless work in encouraging civic participation and education. “I just appreciate being part of this and appreciate what you stand for,” he said. Ashcroft thanked the League for its nonpartisan approach to promoting civic engagement before reading the proclamation.

Maddox said League members look forward to working with Ashcroft to ensure that elections are free, fair, and accessible.

## Suffragists on Parade!

Celebrate our LWVMO 100th Anniversary by joining the Sedalia League at the Missouri State Fair Opening Day Parade on Thursday, Aug. 8. See details on Page 3.



*With about 50 League members and Girl Scouts and four vintage cars in a July 4 parade in Webster Groves, LWV of Metro St. Louis won “Outstanding Civic Entry.”*

## Message from the President



*Evelyn Maddox*

I am pleased to report that your LWVMO Board members are collectively focused on making the next two years as productive for local leagues as possible. We appreciate the trust that local Leagues have placed in us to return value to local leagues, for the per member pledges paid to LWVMO.

While LWVMO has a unique responsibility to lead local Leagues in advocacy for state issues, and to link Missouri Leagues with LWVUS, we will work to maximize the synergy of local Leagues. Our Joint Office has limited time and resources to assist local Leagues, but the Board will be vigilant in recognizing when the Joint Office can support the in-common needs of local Leagues

LWVMO will continue to hold educational conferences for LWV members, administer the Education Fund, provide legislative tracking, organize educational events for LWV members, seek grants for both local Leagues and LWVMO, facilitate archiving for local Leagues, publish the *Missouri Voter*, maintain the website as a resource for members and the public, and offer LWV merchandise for purchase.

The practical side of League management requires LWVMO and all Leagues to be better at fundraising and to become the culturally diverse organization we want to be. 2019 and 2020, LWV's special years of celebrating 100 years' achievements, promise to be both rewarding and productive toward those ends.

Executive Director Jean Dugan and I attended the LWVUS Council for state leaders in late June. We learned there that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative will be supported at the local level by LWVUS staff and consultants.

It's a pleasure to be working with all our Missouri members in the important work we do for democracy.

—Evelyn Maddox, president

(Note that a list of state board members and photos can be found on Page 7.)



Mary Merritt trains the new LWVMO Treasurer, Cindy Wunderlich

# MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

## Mark Your Calendar!

Save the date, Sept. 28, for a planning conference for all local Leagues in Columbia. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Broadway Christian Church at 2601 West Broadway.

We will spend the day developing customized plans for local Leagues to carry out the "Making Democracy Work" initiative underwritten by LWVUS. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and fundraising are important components of the initiative.

Watch for details of time and agenda of this very special event. for which there is no registration fee.

There will also be a Fall Conference on Saturday, Nov. 2, in Sedalia.

## Join Us in Sedalia for State Fair Parade!

We invite members and friends to join us for the Missouri State Fair Opening Day Parade on Thursday, Aug. 8. The parade kicks off at 6 p.m. at State Fair Blvd. and 16th Street for a march through the fairgrounds. Everyone who is in the parade gets free admission to the fair for the rest of the day.

We are gathering at Mary Merritt's house, 1812 S. Grand, to change into costumes, gather water bottles and fellowship until 5:45 when we join the parade line-up.

Members and friends who want to join us are asked to wear white outfits if at all possible. Bring your sash if you have one, and if not, we will find one for you to borrow. A vintage-looking outfit is even better, but not at all required.

We want ladies/girls to carry our banner and signs. Wear comfortable shoes as we will walk about a mile and it will be warm/hot. But it will be so much fun!!!

For more information, contact Kathleen Boswell, 660-620-1213.



1912 march in New York City



2019 group in St. Louis



### 2019 CALENDAR

**Aug. 8:** State Fair Opening Day Parade, Sedalia

**Aug. 24:** Missouri Women's Network Equality Day Brunch, Clayton

**Sept. 19:** Meader Center Speaker Series: "Women, Their Rights, and Nothing Less" featuring Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight for the Vote*, 6 pm at Clara Thompson Hall, Springfield. Panel discussion at 11 pm on Sept. 20, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library.

**Sept. 28:** Board meeting and Fall Planning Conference, Broadway Christian Church, Columbia

**Oct. 16:** Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters

**Nov. 2:** Fall Workshop, State Fair Community College, Sedalia

**Nov. 13:** Centennial of St. Louis League, gala banquet at Sheldon Concert Hall, 6 pm

**Dec. 7:** Event celebrating Dec. 11 centennial of Columbia League

## State Capitol Rotunda Suffragist Plaque

On the day of the proclamation, state board members took a photo by a plaque the League installed in 1931 at the Capitol that is a tribute “to those women in Missouri whose courageous work opened the opportunities of complete citizenship to all women in the state.” Go to [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org) for a list of the full names of the Missouri suffragists listed on the plaque.



*State board members Louise Wilkerson, Marilyn McLeod, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Evelyn Maddox and Carol Schreiber,*

## National Popular Vote Compact

This has been a very busy year for the League and other organizations working to get the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) passed in more state legislatures. This past year the number of states which have passed the NPV increased by three (Oregon, New Mexico and Colorado). The Nevada legislature passed the bill in both houses but the Governor vetoed it. Maine got very close to passage but did not quite make it.

Out of the 270 electoral votes needed to pass the Compact nationwide there are now 196. Our goal in Missouri is to get the compact introduced in the legislature this coming session. One way to succeed is to inform more and more people about the advantages of electing a president who wins a majority of the votes cast nationwide. The legislators have to get the message that voters in Missouri want the president to be elected by the most votes cast nationwide. Under the present electoral system, all but two states give all of their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in that state. This does not always total the same number as a direct nationwide count of the votes cast for president. In fact, five times in the history of the United States, under this system, the country elected a president who did not receive the most votes nationwide.

Polls show up to 75 percent of the population believe a direct election of the President by popular vote is essential to representative government. A national organization is directing the popular vote initiative. You can get more information at its web site: <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>.

— Sydell Shayer, NPV Committee Chair



## New Leagues in Southwest Missouri

On July 17 a group of 50 energized men and women gathered in Joplin to meet with Joan Gentry and Ann Elwell, representatives from the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri,. They answered questions and provided recommendations on how to get Joplin's chapter underway.

Residents from the area, including Webb City and Carthage, have expressed interest in forming a local league in an effort to provide voter education and increase the understanding of major public policy issues.

Ann and Joan discussed the mission of the league, membership, and the necessary steps to take in order to start a local group.

Justin Kidston of Joplin attended the informational meeting and brought his 7-year-old daughter, so she could realize the importance of the voting process as she becomes older. "I realized the importance of getting active in the community, especially in the voting process, and then I caught wind of this," said Kidston. "I have a daughter, and I think it's good exposure to her to see these things, to get involved and see us getting involved."

After seeing how receptive the audience was Wednesday evening, K. J. McDonald, one of the event organizers, said she believes they have enough momentum to move forward in the local branch's creation. Watch their Facebook page for updates (<https://www.facebook.com/Joplin-Area-League-of-Women-Voters-2192257977549333/>).

In Branson, the Tri-Lakes Area League held their fifth monthly meeting and began organizing voter registration events and discussing voter advocacy needs in their area. They are now registered with the Missouri Secretary of State and are moving ahead in their development.

## LOCAL LEAGUE REPORTS

### LWV-Columbia-Boone County

Website: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)

We have great plans for celebrating both centennials! We already began our year-long series of events with a showing of the film “One Woman, One Vote” in July at our local public library. Additional plans are in the works, including: Celebrating the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the XIX Amendment” in August, with a Sing-along with the Joy Boys and Suffrage Songs, and guest speaker: Catherine Rypf, chair, and professor of the MU History Department speaking on U.S. Women’s Political History and the changes in women’s legal rights.

In September, we will have a program on “Women Judges: Women’s Role in Justice” featuring a panel of judges including Ann Covington, the first woman to serve on the Missouri Supreme Court. In October, we will have a program on the role of women of color in the suffrage movement. And in November, we plan to march in costume in the local holiday parade.

This won’t stop us from continuing with all our regular activities, including voter registration and our monthly Lunch & Learn programs on public policy topics.

—Marilyn McLeod, president

### LWV-Southwest Missouri

Website: [www.lwvswmo.org](http://www.lwvswmo.org)

In addition to providing leadership in the establishment of two new LWV chapters in southwest Missouri (see article on page 5), our League has been active in the following:

**Diversity:** The League offered voter registration and information at the Juneteenth event, held in Springfield June 29 at Silver Springs Park. Juneteenth commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery. During segregation, Silver Springs was the only park designated for black residents.

**Centennial:** We hope many League members around the state will join us on Thursday, September 19, at 6:00 pm, for a public talk by Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight for the Vote*. The event is hosted by The Meador Center at Clara Thompson Hall, Drury University, 900 N. Benton Avenue, Springfield. The following day, at 11:00 am, we will host a panel discussion on voting rights then and now, with Elaine Weiss, LWVSWMO, and others at The Midtown Carnegie Branch of the Springfield-Greene County Library, 397 E Central St, Springfield.

On June 25, “Women in Politics,” a Think-N-Drink with Missouri Humanities Council was held at Missouri Spirits, 507 W. Walnut Street in Springfield. The full-house event was a great success. “Women in Politics” was the kick-off event for our year-long celebration of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

Next up will be a movie and voter-registration event at The Alamo Drafthouse on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

—Angie Snyder, president

## FUNDRAISING TRAINING

LWVUS has developed training modules designed for League leaders to grow capacity and impact through effective fundraising. Please take time to watch these online modules: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/fundraising/fundraising-training-modules>



### Officers

**President:** Evelyn Maddox (Kansas City)  
**Vice President:** Marilyn McLeod (Columbia)  
**Secretary:** Louise Wilkerson (St. Louis)  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Wunderlich (St. Louis)

### Directors

Melody Armstrong (Kansas City)  
 Kathleen Boswell (Sedalia)  
 Marge Bramer (Springfield)  
 Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly)  
 Joan Gentry (Southwest)  
 Nancy Miller (St. Louis)  
 Carol Schreiber (Columbia)  
 Sharon Swon (Mexico)

### Nominating Committee

Pauline Testerman (Kansas City/  
 Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties)  
 Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)  
 Lorraine Sandstrom (Southwest)

**Executive Director:** Jean Dugan  
**Office Assistant:** Chantal Hoffsten

Historian and Voter Protection Coalition  
 Liaison: Linda McDaniel

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson  
 LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer



*Left to right: Cindy Wunderlich, Evelyn Maddox, Marilyn McLeod, Nancy Copenhaver, Sharon Swon, Marge Bramer, Louise Wilkerson, Carol Schreiber, Joan Gentry, Kathleen Boswell, Melodie Armstrong, and Nancy Miller*

### **Impact on Issues**

*The 2018-2020 Impact on Issues* from LWVUS can now be downloaded as a PDF free from LWVUS or purchased from Amazon for \$5.95 plus shipping (no shipping charge on Amazon Prime). It is also available on Kindle for 99 cents.

### **Guide to State Action**

The Missouri "Guide to State Action" is being updated. Find the most recent version at <https://lwvmo.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/guide-to-state-action-4-9-2019.pdf>



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## **2020 LWV CALENDARS**

The 2020 LWV Calendars are in and ready to be shipped out. Order yours today!

We are pleased to say that last year's prices are still in effect (\$7 each with \$3 shipping), and local Leagues can order in bulk to distribute among members and friends.

To order, go to [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org).

Call 314-961-6869 or send an e-mail to [league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org) with questions. Please include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Missouri Voter, LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. All other correspondence to Evelyn Maddox, LWVMO President, at the same address.

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